

Claims

1. A method for providing a customer computer with access, through a network, to a media content file, said method comprising the steps of:

5 opening a session with the customer computer;

 receiving from the customer computer a request to view a media content file;

 creating a temporary metafile having a temporary metafile name, said metafile containing a network address where said media
10 content file can be obtained and an unencrypted file path leading to said media content file;

 sending to the customer computer the temporary metafile name; and

 canceling or deleting the metafile before or at the end of
15 said session with the customer computer.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said temporary metafile also contains an encrypted name of said media content file.

3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of said customer computer requesting said temporary metafile to learn the
20 encrypted media content file name, unencrypted media content file path and said network address, and said customer computer subsequently sending said encrypted media content file name and said encrypted media content file path to said network address.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the creating step further comprises the step of computing said metafile name based on characteristics of said customer session.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said customer session was opened with an application server, and further comprising the following steps executed by the customer computer:

receiving said temporary metafile name;

using said temporary metafile name, requesting the temporary metafile from said application server;

10 sending a request to said network address to receive and play said media content file identified by said encrypted media content file name and encrypted media content file path; and

receiving and playing the named media content file from said network address.

15 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising the following steps performed by a media content server having said network address:

upon receipt of the encrypted file path, checking if said encrypted file path is a file path of an existing media content file accessible by the media content server, and if so, sending
20 this media content file for playing to the customer computer.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said customer session is opened between said customer computer and an application server or a media content server.

8. The method of claim 1 further comprising the following step
25 performed by the customer computer:

installing a media player program which is automatically activated upon reception of said temporary metafile name to:

request the temporarily named metafile from an application server with which said session was opened;

5 send data, identifying said media content file, within said temporarily named metafile to said network address; and

receive and play said media content file received from said network address.

10 9. The method of claim 1 wherein said temporary meta file name is sent to said customer computer within an HTML page.

10. The method as set forth in claim 2 further comprising the step of determining an unencrypted name of said media content file by a naming convention applicable to other unencrypted media
15 content file names available from said network address.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein said naming convention is not apparent from encrypted names of said media content files.

12. A server for providing a customer computer with access, through a network, to a media content file, said server
20 comprising:

means for opening a session with the customer computer;

means for receiving from the customer computer a request to view a media content file;

means for creating a temporary metafile having a temporary metafile name, said metafile containing a network address where said media content file can be obtained and an encrypted file path leading to said media content file;

5 means for sending to the customer computer the temporary metafile name; and

means for canceling or deleting the metafile before or at the end of said session with the customer computer.

13. A computer program product for providing a customer computer
10 with access, through a network, to a media content file, said computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium;

first program instructions to open a session with the customer computer;

15 second program instructions to receive from the customer computer a request to view a media content file;

third program instructions to create a temporary metafile having a temporary metafile name, said metafile containing a network address where said media content file can be obtained and
20 an encrypted file path leading to said media content file;

fourth program instructions to send to the customer computer the temporary metafile name; and

fifth program instructions to cancel or deleting the
metafile before or at the end of said session with the customer
computer; and wherein

said first, second, third, fourth and fifth program
5 instructions are recorded on said medium.